

Living Through History: Pandemic Perspective

Eighth Grader, Age 13

My life has changed significantly ever since the COVID-19 pandemic started. Everything that used to be a normal part of my everyday routine is either gone or very different. We are self quarantined in our homes, and we are not supposed to come within 6 feet of another person unless they are in our family. This pandemic has changed the way of living for everyone in one way or another.

When I first heard of the Coronavirus happening in China, it seemed small and irrelevant to me. My life was still the same as always; going to school everyday and doing fun activities with my friends. However, in a matter of time, the virus spread to Evergreen and our schools were closed, so we switched to remote learning. This was the start of all the changes that have happened since, acting like a domino effect; first school was cancelled, then sports, and then all other group activities.

I am no longer allowed to physically see my friends, fellow students, or teachers, so any interaction we'd usually have has turned into a Facetime meeting. All of our schooling is now online, so we end up spending entire days just staring at a screen. Additionally, we try to limit the number of times we go to the store or doctor, but with my entire family home, food disappears quicker than it used to, so now our trips to the grocery store have become more frequent. We are trying new recipes for bread and desserts, but we have to be considerate of how many materials we are using due to a shortage in sugar and flour. Also, going outside is now a treat compared to being cooped up in the house all day. Going on walks, I tend to see many more people outside than I used to. Even though this pandemic might have improved our habits in some ways, it also ruins plans for the approaching summer. Vacations and summer camps are most likely cancelled, so I think we can expect a similar way of living over the next few months or even years.

When I think about how much my life has altered in the past weeks, I realize that I had taken many things for granted before the COVID-19 pandemic started. I never comprehended just how lucky I was to see my friends everyday and learn in a comfortable environment. When my quarantine is over, I will gladly return to the life I know and love.